

## BOOK REVIEW

## LINNAEUS\*

The present volume, the most complete life of the "Father of Modern Botany" in English, represents the efforts of two men admirably fitted for the work. The late Professor Fries was professor of botany at Upsala, had control of the old botanic garden with Linnaeus' house, and was the first administrator of the home at Hammerby after it became the property of the state. He had access to all the university records of the years when Linnaeus was a student and professor as well as to all the correspondence and collections. In addition he had been an admirer of his great predecessor since childhood. Dr. Jackson who has adapted and translated the life is the general secretary of the Linnean Society of London and has written numerous articles on Linnaeus and his herbarium.

The reader follows the life of the child who was quieted with a flower when fretful, through the boyhood days and away to college, travels with him through Lapland and goes down to Holland to share in the recognition and honor given the young botanist. Later he returns with him to Sweden and watches him in his university and home life. The descriptions are complete and make the reader feel the charm of the man. Following the story of the life of Linnaeus come chapters on his authorship and correspondence, the benefactors and friends, his family relations, his scientific importance. The book is considerably condensed from the two volumes by Fries and some new material has been added. Some stories long current, such as the quarrel with Rosen, have been investigated and shown to be largely fables with a slight basis of fact. Regarding the statement that Linnaeus named stately and beautiful plants after his friends, insignificant and ugly ones after his enemies, it is remarked that Linnaeus considered no plants insignificant or ugly. It is interesting after reading of how many men, professors in the University, eminent botanists of the time, or great merchants with a love of plants helped the young student and gave him opportunity for study and for collecting to see

\* Benjamin Dayton Jackson, *Linnaeus, The Story of his Life*, Adapted from the Swedish of Theodore Magnus Fries, pp. 1-xv, 1-416. H. F. & G. Wetherby, London, 1923. Price 25s.

how he in turn helped the young men who came to him when he became a teacher. How he took them into his home, raised funds for their support or to enable them to travel, how above all else he inspired them with a love of all phases of nature. From first to last the impression is made of the vigor of the man and the amount of detailed work he accomplished.

While the book is in general well written it is marred in places by crudity of expression, apparently literal translations from the Swedish. It would have helped in following the travels on the map if the names in the text and on the map had been spelled alike. There are reproductions of paintings of Linnaeus at different periods and of the homes he occupied. The book gives many facts never before published in English, is as complete as a biography can well be, but is especially valuable because of the way in which Linnaeus is made to live for the reader.

G. T. HASTINGS

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

### MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14, 1923

This meeting was held at the American Museum of Natural History. The program of the evening consisted of a lecture by Mr. Carl Bannwart on "Great Men and their Attitude toward Trees," which was copiously illustrated by beautiful lantern-slides and was accompanied by many quotations from ancient and modern literature.

MARSHALL A. HOWE,  
*Secretary*

### MEETING OF NOVEMBER 28, 1923

The meeting of November 28 was held at the Museum of The N. Y. Botanical Garden.

Miss Helen M. Carr, Mt. Vernon, N. Y., was elected to membership.

The first paper on the scientific program was on "Viability of Date Pollen" by Dr. A. B. Stout. The date palm is dioecious and the practice of growing only a few of the staminate trees and making artificial pollinations has been in vogue for many centuries. For use in pollination the Arabs often keep the pollen for one or more years, sometimes it is alleged, for as much as